

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

May 6, 2004

For immediate release

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MUD, CLAY SPILL INTO ROCKWELL CITY DRAINAGE DITCH

ROCKWELL CITY — An unknown amount of mud and bentonite clay overflowed into a drainage ditch south of Rockwell City Wednesday during a well drilling in town.

When workers began to pour concrete around the well casing, the concrete displaced water from the well. The water is normally filtered with a screen, but pump failure caused mud and bentonite clay to spill into a storm sewer, which flowed into a drainage ditch. Bentonite clay is generally used in well construction.

The drilling mud and clay created a slug in the drainage ditch that is visible for about two miles. The City has capped the storm drain and the mud and clay will be removed today. The mud and clay were most likely diluted and filtered out before reaching Lake Creek, a tributary to the Raccoon River.

“We have taken water samples, but we don’t anticipate a fish kill,” said Tom Roos, environmental specialist with the DNR Spencer field office.

The DNR will continue to investigate the incident and will later determine if enforcement actions are necessary.

For more information, contact Tom Roos at (712) 260-9269.

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FARM CHEMICALS SPILL INTO CREEK NEAR SLATER

SLATER — An unknown amount of chemicals were found in the headwaters of Four Mile Creek near Slater on Tuesday.

The yellow-green colored substance observed in the creek is most likely a herbicide. Water samples were taken and results will help determine the source and type of substance.

“I would caution farmers in the handling and storage of farm chemicals,” said Dave Perry, an environmental specialist in the DNR Des Moines field office.

Minnows were observed swimming in the stream after the spill. While three creek chubs appeared to be stressed, the DNR is not anticipating a fish kill.

The DNR will continue to investigate the incident and will later determine if enforcement actions are necessary.

For more information, contact Dave Perry at (515) 725-0419.

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REGISTRATION EXTENDED FOR DNR WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKSHOP

DES MOINES — The registration deadline for the DNR’s wastewater treatment training workshop has been extended to Monday, May 17. Consulting engineers, project managers, and city and county officials are encouraged to attend to learn more about the DNR’s new wastewater treatment permit approval process.

The workshop will be held at the University Park Holiday Inn in West Des Moines on Tuesday, May 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost of the workshop is \$35 and includes all meals.

The DNR recently underwent a major review and revision of the process it uses to accept wastewater treatment projects and to issue construction permits. The revision had measurable results, refining the process from 28 months to 4 months.

“Learning about these changes firsthand is important for anyone involved in the process,” said Wayne Farrand, environmental program supervisor with the DNR. “Attendees will get the inside story and be able to better work with us on new permits.”

To obtain a registration form, visit www.iowadnr.com/news/04apr/wwworkshop.html. Registrations must be postmarked or faxed by May 17, 2004.

For more information on registration, contact Jill Cornell at (515) 281-0879 or by e-mail at Jill.Cornell@dnr.state.ia.us. For questions regarding technical aspects of the workshop, contact Wayne Farrand at (515) 281-8877.

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DNR PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO FEDERAL FARM BILL APPLICANTS

DES MOINES — The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture announced yesterday the availability of \$23 million for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the nation's rural areas. To aid Iowa agricultural producers and small businesses interested in applying, the Iowa DNR can provide technical assistance for projects through publications, a Web site and technical staff.

Last year, Iowa applicants received nearly \$1.2 million for energy-related projects through the Farm Bill. Projects included new wind energy generators, combined heat and power operations, and methane digestion devices.

For more information and applications for Federal Farm Bill funding, contact Jeff Kuntz, USDA Rural Development, Federal Building, Room 873, 210 Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50309, (641) 932-3031.

The DNR's Energy Web pages contain links to various tools, checklists, case studies and other renewable energy information, and is located at www.iowadnr.com/energy/.

For more information, contact Patti Cale-Finnegan with the DNR at (515) 242-6043 or by e-mail at Patti.Cale-Finnegan@dnr.state.ia.us.

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DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

DES MOINES — The DNR has taken the following enforcement actions. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty.

- Williams Brothers Garage, of Atlantic, was ordered to cease the illegal disposal of solid waste, to stop open burning and to submit a Pollution Prevention Plan to the DNR. The business was also ordered to stop accepting discarded appliances, unless the appliances are fully demanufactured by a licensed demanufacturer prior to receipt, and to properly dispose of all appliances currently on the property. Williams Brothers Garage was also ordered to submit records to the DNR verifying proper disposal of all solid waste on the property and to pay a \$5,000 penalty.
- Galen Engstrom, of Renwick, was notified that the DNR intends to take disciplinary action with respect to his Grade IL Wastewater Treatment Operator Certificate,

including a \$1,000 penalty and two-year probation. The notification is in regards to lagoon discharges and lack of effluent monitoring.

- The City of Renwick was ordered to comply with wastewater monitoring and reporting requirements and to retain a new certified operator. The order is in regards to failure to monitor the city's wastewater facility and to report discharges.
- Roquette America, Inc., of Keokuk, was ordered to eliminate and prevent future occurrence of discoloration of the waste stream from its wastewater treatment plant and to comply with temperature, TSS and BOD limits at specific outfalls. Roquette America was also ordered to submit a report to the DNR detailing the steps to be taken to ensure compliance with permit limits and general water quality criteria, and to pay a \$10,000 penalty.
- Sioux Pharm, Inc., of Sioux Center, was ordered to pay a \$5,000 penalty. The order is in regards to construction of a wastewater disposal system without a permit. The order has been appealed.
- Grathwohl Bros. LLP, of Fairmont, Minn., was ordered to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to timely submit a manure management plan for a facility in Kossuth County, Iowa.
- Charlie Haywood, of Union, was ordered to comply with manure applicator certification and manure management plan (MMP) recordkeeping requirements, and to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regards to land-applying manure without certification and failure to maintain 2001 MMP records for three years.
- Jeff Salsbery, of Tipton, was ordered to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to timely submit a manure management plan.
- Clark Partnership, of Osceola County, was ordered to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to timely submit a manure management plan.
- Hoogland Farms, Inc., of Sioux County, was ordered to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regards to failure to timely submit a manure management plan. The order has been appealed.
- Kay Finisher, of Buena Vista County, was ordered to submit an updated manure management plan and annual compliance fee, and to pay a \$750 penalty.
- Gary L. Brown, of Emmet County, was ordered to submit a manure management plan and fee, and to pay a \$1,500 penalty.
- The Rose Bowl, of Mason City, was ordered to sample its public water supply for nitrate at least once per year, to provide public notice of monitoring deficiencies and to pay a \$500 penalty.

- Mitchell Town Pump, of Osage, was ordered to cease operation until it meets all requirements necessary to obtain a water supply operation permit and to pay a \$5,000 penalty.
- Iowa Falls Evangelical Free Church, of Iowa Falls, was ordered to cease operation of its public water supply until an operation permit is obtained, to pay \$125 for the 2004 annual fee and late fee, and to pay a \$750 penalty. If the church continues to operate its public water supply, it must immediately sample for bacteria, and at least once per quarter afterwards; immediately sample for nitrate and nitrite, and for nitrate at least once per year thereafter; provide public notice of monitoring violations; and timely pay annual fees and submit application for permit renewal in the future.
- Allsteel, Inc., d.b.a. Allsteel Component Plant, of Muscatine, was ordered to submit air quality construction permit applications for unpermitted emission units at its facility and to comply with construction permit requirements prior to construction, alteration or modification of air emission or control equipment. Allsteel was also ordered to comply with performance testing, recordkeeping and reporting requirements, and to pay a \$10,000 penalty. The order has been appealed.
- W & H Cooperative Oil Company, of Des Moines, was ordered to comply with all legal notification requirements upon occurrence of a hazardous condition and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The order is in regards to a diesel fuel spill at a gas station in Eagle Grove.
- The City of Alton was ordered to comply with flood plain construction permit requirements and to pay a \$5,000 penalty. The city was also ordered to cease maintenance or construction on the crest elevation of the rubble dam above the elevation in the city's permit until all necessary approvals are obtained prior to initiating the project.

For more information, contact Jessie Rolph at (515) 281-5131 or Jessie.Rolph@dnr.state.ia.us.